

a second illumination apparatus operatively associated with the computer-pointing device, said second illumination apparatus generating light when the computer-pointing device is in a second operating mode, the light generated by said second illumination apparatus providing for the user a visual indication of the second operating mode of the computer-pointing device.

2. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, wherein the computer-pointing device comprises a mouse.

3. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, wherein said first illumination apparatus comprises a light-emitting diode, and wherein said second illumination apparatus comprises a light-emitting diode.

4. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, wherein said first illumination apparatus generates light having at least one attribute different than the light generated by said second illumination apparatus.

5. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, wherein said first illumination apparatus generates light when the computer-pointing device is not being moved, and wherein said second illumination apparatus generates light when the computer-pointing device is being moved.

6. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, further comprising a third illumination apparatus operatively associated with the computer-pointing device, said third illumination apparatus generating light when the computer-pointing device is in a third operating mode, the light generated by said third illumination apparatus providing for the user a visual indication of the third operating mode of the computer-pointing device.

7. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 6,

wherein said first illumination apparatus generates light when the computer-pointing device is not in contact with the user, wherein said second illumination apparatus generates light when the computer-pointing device is being moved, and wherein said  
5 third illumination apparatus generates light when the computer-pointing device is in contact with the user but the computer-pointing device is not being moved.

8. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, further comprising a switch, said switch allowing the user to  
10 disable the operating mode indicator apparatus.

9. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, further comprising a time-delayed shut off switch, said time-delayed shut off switch causing the operating mode indicator  
15 apparatus to be shut off after a period of inactivity.

10. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, further comprising a user detection device operatively associated with the computer-pointing device, said user detection device detecting when the user is accessing the computer-pointing  
20 device.

11. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 10, wherein said user detection device comprises an optical sensor.

12. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 10, wherein said user detection device comprises a thermal sensor.

13. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 10, wherein said user detection device comprises a mechanically  
25 activated switch.

14. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 10, wherein said user detection device comprises a capacitance proximity sensor.

15. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 1,  
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further comprising a data processing system operatively associated with the computer-pointing device, said data processing system receiving a data signal from the computer-pointing device that is indicative of the operating mode of the computer-pointing device, said data processing system processing the data signal so that said first illumination apparatus generates light when the computer-pointing device is in the first operating mode and so that said second illumination apparatus generates light when the computer-pointing device is in the second operating mode.

16. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, further comprising a control system, said control system actuating said first illumination apparatus when the computer-pointing device is in the first operating mode, said control system actuating said second illumination apparatus when the computer-pointing device is in the second operating mode.

17. (Amended) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, wherein said first illumination apparatus and said second illumination apparatus comprise a single illumination apparatus.

18. (Amended). A method, comprising:

providing a computer-pointing device with a first illumination apparatus and a second illumination apparatus;  
determining whether the computer-pointing device is in a first operating mode;

illuminating said first illumination apparatus if it is determined that the computer-pointing device is in the first operating mode, the illumination of the first illumination apparatus providing for a user a visual indication of the first operating mode of the computer-pointing device;

determining whether the computer-pointing device is in a second operating mode; and

illuminating said second illumination apparatus if it

is determined that the computer-pointing device is in the second operating mode, the illumination of the second illumination apparatus providing for the user a visual indication of the second operating mode of the computer-pointing device.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising:  
providing the computer-pointing device with a third illumination apparatus;

determining whether the computer-pointing device is in a third operating mode; and

illuminating said third illumination apparatus if it is determined that the computer-pointing device is in the third operating mode, the illumination of the third illumination apparatus providing for the user a visual indication of the third operating mode of the computer-pointing device.

20. (Amended) A computer-pointing device, comprising:  
means for providing for a user a first visual indication that the computer-pointing device is in a first operating mode; and

means for providing the user a second visual indication that the computer-pointing device is in a second operating mode.

21. (Amended) A computer-pointing device, comprising:  
a cursor movement control device, said cursor movement control device allowing a user to move a cursor on display apparatus operatively associated with the computer-pointing device;

a first illumination apparatus, said first illumination apparatus generating light when the computer-pointing device is in a first operating mode, the light generated by said first illumination apparatus providing for a user a visual indication of the first operating mode